

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 41411-89125

Title: LESS-THAN-LETHAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TRAINING

Operation/Exercise Name: WESTPAC 95-1

Observed: 12 Apr 1995

Originator: S-3

POC: MAJ K.P. O'KEEFE Commercial:

DSN:

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

During Operation UNITED SHIELD, the MEU employed less-than-lethal weapons and tactics. The weapons were procured and the tactics taught were put together hastily while afloat, just prior to the landing force going ashore.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

ARG/MEUs many times are employed in Military-Operations-Other-Than-War (MOOTW). These operations require a great deal of flexibility in the employment of force. The MEU needs to be capable of employing force across the entire spectrum, from the threat of force to the use of deadly force. The MEU's capability to employ non-lethal force is limited (CS riot control grenades). During Operation UNITED SHIELD, the ability to employ non-lethal force was enhanced through an initiative of the Commander, Combined Task Force UNITED SHIELD (CCTF) that procured non-lethal weapons and agents. Operations such as UNITED SHIELD demonstrate a requirement to be able to employ non-lethal force. The improvisation of the CCTF should be used as a basis for the procurement of weapons and munitions and instruction/training of tactics associated with non-lethal force.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

That non-lethal tactics and weapons are an important part of a MEU's "tool box" of capabilities, especially in an MOOTW environment. The rapid procurement and training of non-lethal weapons was successful but not ideal.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MEUs should be equipped and trained to employ non-lethal weapons and tactics. Training should be at the individual and unit level, and should be conducted for MEUs as part of their pre-deployment training package.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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